



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2007

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Subject: INITIAL POLREP

Des Plaines Street Viaduct Site

Kinzie Street and Desplaines Street, Chicago, IL

Latitude: 41.8886

Longitude: -87.6442

POLREP No.: 1

Site #:

Reporting Period: 09/21/2007 to 09/25/2007

D.O. #:

Start Date: 9/21/2007

Response Authority: CERCLA

Mob Date: 9/24/2007

Response Type: Emergency

Completion Date:

NPL Status: Non NPL

CERCLIS ID #:

Incident Category: Removal Action

RCRIS ID #:

Contract #

Site Description

On Friday, September 21, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) received a call that an abandoned semi-trailer full of drums was located under the Des Plaines Street overpass at the intersection of Kinzie Street in Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. EPA and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor met the City of Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE) at the site on this day.

There are two semi-trailers located under the overpass. The ownership of one of the trailers is currently under investigation and is not part of this response at this time. The other trailer was opened and drums were observed inside. It was estimated that approximately 30 drums were inside the trailer. Visible labels on the drums indicated that the drums were full of ☐ Spent Carbon ☐ PCB Ballasts ☐ and ☐ Ni-Cad Batteries. ☐ CDOE agreed to arrange disposal for the non-hazardous material inside the trailer. U.S. EPA contacted the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor to initiate an emergency removal to begin on Monday, September 24, 2007.

Current Activities

On Monday, September 24, 2007, U.S. EPA, START, and ERRS mobbed to the site to begin

an emergency removal. On this day all drums were staged outside the semi-trailer and numbered. Labels on the drums indicated that two of the drums of light ballasts appeared to be from Fermi Lab in Batavia, Illinois. One drum contained a hazardous waste label stating that the drum contained ☐ 1 small container of mercury. ☐ Several pallets of unopened alkaline batteries and light bulbs were also discovered inside the trailer. These pallets were staged outside the semi-trailer with the drums. The pallets of material were heavy and difficult to move out of the trailer. There was also lots of debris (cardboard boxes and unused pallets) scattered throughout the trailer and stacked on top of drums. A total of 38 drums were inside the semi-trailer.

On Tuesday, September 25, 2007, U.S. EPA, START, and ERRS mobbed back to site. On this day the following activities occurred: (1) all drums were opened, (2) drum logs and photo-documentation was completed for all of the drums and pallets, (3) performed segregation of like materials, (4) arrangements for disposal was begun, and (5) a composite sample of the spent carbon (6 drums total) was collected. The spent carbon sample was delivered to a laboratory for the following analyses: Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) volatile organic compounds, TCLP semivolatile organic compounds, TCLP metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), and corrosivity.

The following is a list of items discovered inside the drums and on pallets:

- ☐ Spent carbon
- ☐ Mercury switches, thermostats, and instrumentation
- ☐ PCB light ballasts
- ☐ Non-PCB light ballasts
- ☐ Capacitors
- ☐ Transformers
- ☐ Used nickel cadmium batteries
- ☐ Used alkaline batteries
- ☐ Used acid batteries
- ☐ Used lead batteries
- ☐ Light bulbs
- ☐ Photoelectric cells
- ☐ Unused alkaline batteries (mostly Duracell)
- ☐ Fluorescent light bulbs

Planned Removal Actions

Planned removal actions at the Des Plaines Viaduct Site include arranging for disposal and then disposing of the material in an appropriate manner.

Next Steps

The next steps for the Des Plaines Street Viaduct Site are as follows:

- ☐ Arrange for disposal for spent carbon once analytical results are received
- ☐ Call companies whose name appear on drums/palletized items to determine if they can pick up drums

☐ Arrange for disposal for all other items

Key Issues

None.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

www.epaosc.net/DesPlaines